

Historical Background

Orangeburgh and 96 judicial districts created

No.1095 An act for establishing courts, building gaols, and appointing sheriffs, and other officers, for the more convenient administration of justice in this province. July 29, 1769. (Public Laws of the State of South-Carolina from Its First Establishment as a British Province down to the Year 1790, Inclusive. Compiled by John Faucheraud Grimke. Philadelphia, 1790, pp. 268-69).

"The said courts at Orangeburgh, ... and a direct line, to be run from Silver Bluff on Savannah River, to the mouth of Rocky Creek, on Saludy river, and thence in the same course, to Broad river."

"And the said courts at 96, of all such pleas, criminal and civil, within the 96 district or precinct, which shall extend to all other parts of this Province."

The southeastern boundary line of 96 District would be the northwestern boundary of Orangeburgh district.

Edgefield County created in Ninety-Six District

An Act for laying off the several counties therein mentioned, and appointing commissioners to erect the public buildings (Statutes at Large of South Carolina, vol. 4, pt. 2, pp. 661-666, March 12, 1785).

"...one other county, adjoining the above, and also bounded on Savannah River, known by the name of Edgefield;..."

"...one other county, adjoining the above" refers to Abbeville County for Edgefield's northwestern boundary. Edgefield's southeastern boundary is still the northwestern boundary of Orangeburgh district created in 1769 (refer to above entry for "96 judicial district created"). At this time, that boundary was the northwestern boundary of Winton and Orangeburgh counties.

Lexington County created in Orangeburgh District

An Act for laying off the several counties therein mentioned, and appointing commissioners to erect the public buildings (Statutes at Large of South Carolina, vol. 4, pt. 2, pp. 661-666, March 12, 1785).

"one other county, beginning at the mouth of Beaver creek, thence along the line of Orange county, thence southwest 54° to the road leading from Orangeburgh to Ninety-Six, thence along the road to the district line, thence along the said line to Saluda river, ..." The northwestern boundary of Orangeburgh district which is defined as ..."and a direct line, to be run from Silver Bluff on Savannah River, to the mouth of Rocky Creek, on Saludy river, and thence in the same course, to Broad river."

Edgefield District created from Ninety-Six District with same boundaries as Edgefield County
January 1, 1800

Edgefield District eliminated by state constitution; Edgefield County continued
April 16, 1868

Edgefield County loses due to creation of Aiken County

An act to establish a new judicial and election county from portions of the counties of Barnwell, Edgefield, Lexington and Orangeburg, to be known as Aiken County (Act 420. Statutes at Large of South Carolina, vol. 14, pp. 695-697, March 10, 1871).

"with the metes and bounds hereinafter described, to wit: commencing at the mouth of Fox's Creek, in Edgefield County, where it empties into the Savannah River, thence in a straight line to where the South branch of Chinquepin Falls Creek, (a tributary of the North Edisto River) intersects the Edgefield and Lexington line;..."

Edgefield County loses due to creation of Saluda County

An act pursuant to the ordinance to establish a new judicial and election county from a portion of the territory of Edgefield County to be called Saluda County, with boundaries as hereinafter described, and to provide for jurisdiction of courts, issue of bonds, receipt of bids for location of county seat, and to provide for tax levy therein (Acts and Joint Resolutions of the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina passed at the Regular Session of 1896, pp. 248-254, February 25, 1896).

"...with the following boundaries, to wit: Beginning at the centre of Big Saluda River at a point opposite the corner of Edgefield and Lexington Counties, thence the Edgefield and Lexington line to the corner of Lexington and Aiken Counties, thence the Edgefield and Aiken line to a point three miles North of where the public road crosses said line near Lybrand's old mill, thence a straight line to ten-mile post on public highway leading from Edgefield to Columbia, near the residence of J.W.L. Bartley,..."